

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 /146 R

DRAFTED BY : ARA/BC/C:AISAACS:MBB

APPROVED BY: AR/BC:JEKARKASHIAN

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R 052202Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

UNCLAS STATE 198925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: US,CI

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL

1. FOLLOWING EDITORIAL TITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE" APPEARED IN WASHINGTON POST OCT 5.

2. QUOTE. A SOMBER NUMBERS GAME IS BEING PLAYED IN CHILE OVER THE TOTAL OF CHILEANS KILLED IN AND SINCE THE COUP OF SEPT. 11. THE JUNTA TENDS TO MINIMIZE THE TOLL - ITS LATEST COUNT IS 284 DEATHS NATIONWIDE. OTHERS, WITHOUT THE JUNTA'S INTEREST IN ADVERTISING ITS POPULAR ACCEPTANCE AND CONTROL, HAVE PRODUCED MUCH LARGER FIGURES. ONE JOURNALIST WHO VISITED THE SANTIAGO MORGUE ON TWO SUCCESSIVE DAYS COUNTED SOME 270 CORPSES. A CIA ESTIMATE MADE TOWARD THE END OF SEPTEMBER PUT THE TOTAL AT 3,000 DEATHS, OF WHICH A THIRD WERE SOLDIERS. A TOLL OF SOLDIERS ON THIS SCALE WOULD INDICATE A MEASURE OF POPULAR RESISTANCE CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN THE JUNTA HAS CONCEDED SO FAR.

THE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SEEM TO FALL IN TWO CATEGORIES. FIRST, THERE ARE OFFICIALS AND FOLLOWERS OF THE DEPOSED

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ALLENDE GOVERNMENT. THE JUNTA HAS CONCEDED EXECUTING SOME

OF THESE PEOPLE SUMMARILY; ADDITIONAL EXECUTIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED UNOFFICIALLY. THEN, THERE ARE NAMELESS WORKERS, SUPPORTERS OF ALLENDE, IN THE SLUM DISTRICTS IN SANTIAGO AND OTHER CITIES; PITCHED BATTLES AS WELL AS INDISCRIMINATE SHOOTING AND BOMBING BY THE JUNTA HAVE BEEN REPORTED. SOME HIGH ALLENDE AIDES HAVE BEEN STASHED AWAY ON A REMOTE ISLAND, WITHOUT TRIAL. FOR OTHERS, MILITARY TRIALS HAVE BEGUN.

THE JUNTA HAS BEEN AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESPONSIVE TO HUMAN RIGHTS APPEALS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. A MISSION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS IS CURRENTLY IN CHILE; UNFORTUNATELY, RED CROSS REPORTS MUST BE MADE PRIVATELY TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT, WHICH NEED NOT REVEAL THE RESULTS. THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES HAS SET UP SOME 20 HAVENS FOR THE NUMEROUS FOREIGNERS WHO WERE ADMITTED TO THE COUNTRY BY PRESIDENT ALLENDE BUT WHO ARE NOW SUBJECT TO BEING DESIGNATED AS "CRIMINALS" - A STATUS THAT WOULD MAKE THEM INELIGIBLE FOR THE JUNTA'S SAFE-CONDUCT GUARANTEES. SOME OF THESE FOREIGNERS HAVE FEARED TO COME OUT OF HIDING INTO THE "HAVENS." THERE ARE DISQUIETING REPORTS THAT BRAZILIAN POLICE HAVE ARRIVED IN CHILE TO RECLAIM SOME BRAZILIAN REFUGEES.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORTED THIS WEEK THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN CHILE HAD EXPRESSED TO THE JUNTA THE UNITED STATES' CONCERN FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. OTHERWISE, SUCH CONCERN HAS BEEN LARGELY MUFFLED BY A HANDS-OFF POSITION CONCEALING EVIDENT SATISFACTION THAT THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT IS OUT OF POWER. IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS TO KEEP IN THIS POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IT COULD AT LEAST ENSURE THAT NO MOVES ARE MADE IN UNSEEMLY HASTE TO ALLOW DEVELOPMENT LOANS TO START FLOWING AGAIN TO THE NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT; THE UNITED STATES HAD FORCED A VIRTUAL SUSPENSION OF SUCH LOANS IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON CHILE IN NEGOTIATIONS OVER EXPROPRIATED AMERICAN FIRMS.

OF IMMEDIATE EFFECT, WE TRUST, IN LETTING SANTIAGO KNOW THAT AMERICANS HOLD CHILE TO RECOGNIZE STANDARDS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, ARE ACTIONS IN CONGRESS. THE SENATE, BY VOICE VOTE WITH NO AUDIBLE OBJECTIONS, HAD APPROVED A SENSE-OF-UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS RESOLUTION, WRITTEN BY SEN. EDWARD M KENNEDY (D-MASS.), ASKING THE PRESIDENT TO DENY ECONOMIC OR MILITARY AID UNTIL HE CAN CERTIFY THAT CHILE IS FULFILLING ITS HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS. THE HOUSE IS WORKING ON ITS OWN RESOLUTION, WHICH, WHILE IT LACKS AN AID SUSPENSION, MAKES PLAIN THE HOUSE'S CONCERN. ENOUGH LEGITIMATE ANXIETY HAS BEEN STIRRED BY REPORTS FROM CHILE TO MAKE HOUSE ACTION ESSENTIAL NOW. UNQUOTE. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731046/aaaabiaoq.tel  
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**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by chappeld>; APPROVED <08 MAR 2002 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, US, CI  
**To:** SANTIAGO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005